



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/08/2022

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2122-84: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, EXPANDING THE EXISTING EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL PROHIBITION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OR SALE FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT CERTAIN CITY PARKS TO INCLUDE RUBY GRANT PARK.

BACKGROUND:

On June 30, 1987, City Council passed Resolution R-8687-95, which prohibited the distribution or sale of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages at any City of Norman public park or recreational facility with the exception of the Firehouse Art Station, the Historical Museum, the Sooner Theater, Westwood Park and the Santa Fe Depot. Section 15-102(b) of the City Code states, "[A]lcoholic beverage means alcohol, spirits, beer and wine as those terms are defined herein and also includes every liquid or solid, patented or not, containing alcohol, spirits, wine or beer and capable of being consumed as a beverage by human beings."

On November 10, 2015, City Council approved Resolution R-1516-31, adding Legacy Park to the list of those facilities that had been previously excepted from the general prohibition related to the distribution or sale of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages. Legacy Park was designed to accommodate a variety of outdoor events, some of which now include the distribution of alcoholic beverages. On September 8, 2020, City Council approved Resolution R-2021-42, adding Reaves, Andrews, and Lions Parks to the list of facilities excepted from the prohibition of selling or distributing intoxicating or alcoholic beverages.

Ruby Grant Park officially opened in December 2021, and is now fully operational and a host of major special events. Like the other facilities exempt from the prohibition, Ruby Grant Park is often used to accommodate a variety of outside events where the distribution of alcoholic beverages is requested. As a result, Staff drafted Resolution R-2122-84 which would add Ruby Grant Park to the list of parks where the distribution or sale of intoxicating beverages would be permitted. On February 10, 2022, this Resolution was considered by the Board of Park Commissioners, who recommended approval.

DISCUSSION:

This Resolution will allow permits to be issued for certain areas of these parks that can be secured and controlled for this type of use. Distribution of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages requires restrictive permits and licenses reviewed and issued through City, State, and County agencies. Park reservation requests that include distribution of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages are required to obtain all necessary permits issued by the City of Norman and abide by all State and County regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2122- 84 to add Ruby Grant Park to the facilities and parks of the City of Norman excepted from the prohibition of distribution or sale of alcoholic beverages during permitted special events.